

Squamata, Scincidae, *Mabuya dorsivittata* (Cope, 1862): Distribution extension in Buenos Aires province, Argentina

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ABSTRACT: *Mabuya dorsivittata* is a lizard with a wide distribution in South America. In Buenos Aires province, Argentina, previous voucher records exist only from its northern sector and from Mar del Plata city. In this work, two new records of *M. dorsivittata* from Buenos Aires province are presented: (1) Azul city (36°46'50" S, 50°51'10" W) and (2) Mar del Tuyú city (37°20'08" S, 59°07'60" W). These new records are located about 175 km from the nearest previous record.

Mabuya dorsivittata is a generalist lizard that uses a wide variety of habitats, like grasslands, forest, and rocky surfaces (Gallardo 1968; Cei 1993), besides some observations of aquatic habits (Gudynas 1980).

The known distribution of this lizard includes a great portion of Argentina, Bolivia (up to Santa Cruz de la Sierra), southeastern Brasil and Uruguay (Gallardo 1968; Cei 1993). In Argentina, the distribution range includes the provinces of Salta, Chaco, Formosa, Tucumán, Catamarca, Santiago del Estero, Córdoba, Santa Fé, a great part of Mendoza, Misiones, Corrientes, Entre Ríos and Buenos Aires (Cei 1993). In Buenos Aires, there are confirmed records (with voucher specimens) only for the northern sector of the province and from Mar del Plata city (Liebermann 1939).

In the present work, two new confirmed records are presented for *M. dorsivittata*. Voucher specimens are deposited in the herpetological section of the Museo de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The first record (MLPR.5366) from Azul city (36°46'50" S, 50°51'10" W), at the center of the Buenos Aires Province, and the second

(MLPR.5465) from Mar del Tuyú coastal city (37°20'08" S, 59°07'60" W). The new records are approximately 260 km (Azul) and 280 km (Mar del Tuyú) S from previous records in the north of Buenos Aires province, and 175 km (Azul) and 240 km (Mar del Tuyú) from Mar del Plata city (Figure 1). The new records come from different habitats, being Azul sector dominated by high pampas grasslands and Mar del Tuyú, a coastal dunal area dominated by low to medium grasslands. Cei (1993) suggests an irregular distribution for this lizard, though more surveys are necessary to confirm whether that irregularity is related with the species distribution or with the absence of extensive surveys at intermediate localities. It is also possible that these records could be related with human process of species dispersion, as it was described for this lizard in San Juan Province (Gómez and Acosta 1998).

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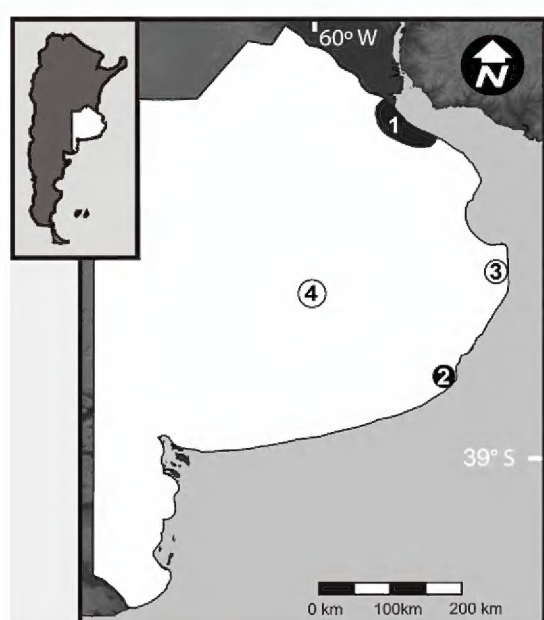


FIGURE 1. Records of *Mabuya dorsivittata* in Buenos Aires province. North of Buenos Aires (1) and Mar del Plata city (2) represent the previous records, whereas Mar del Tuyú city (3) and Azul city (4) are the new records.